the proven role of Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism and the like are part of these pressure tactics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Of late, the US Government has not been insisting that India become a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Currently, the non-proliferation objectives identified by the US Government in South Asia are first to cap, then reduce and finally eliminate the possession of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The US Government has proposed that India consider non-deployment of Prithvi missile. Government's well known position rejecting international or regional non- proliferation regimes which are not universal, comprehensive, non-discriminatory and verifiable has been reiterated to the us on several occasions. In its interaction with the US Government, India has highlighted the indigenous and transparent nature of its missile development programme and has reiterated its position that a decision to deploy certain weapons system would be based primarily on Government's assessment of India's security environment.

(c) The US Government has taken the position that Government of Pakistan is no longer supporting terrorism in India but it would continue to impress upon Pakistan to cease aiding and abetting militants in India. Government have conveyed that evidence of Pakistan's support to terrorism in India continues to mount and Pakistan's complicity in this regard remains a matter of deep concern for Government and the position of the US Government is based on political factors unrelated to the ground reality.

Indian Stand at UN Human Rights Commission

4613. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India was represented, at the UN Human Rights Conference held in Geneva recently, by Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Finance Minister, alongwith the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Dr. Farooq Abdullah, the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir ; and

(b) if so, what was Government's precise stand as against the case presented by Pakistani Prime Minister relating to the Human Rights in Kashmir at that Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) India was represented at the 50th UNCHR Session by a high level India delegation drawn from a cross section of political spectrum which included Dr. Manmohan Singh (Finance Minister), Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha), Dr. Farooq Abdullah (former Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir) and senior officials. Government of India placed the true facts regarding the situation in J & K, to the attention the International Community and countered Pakistan's case by drawing attention in particular to Pakistan's interference in India's internal affairs by aiding and abetting terrorism in India. Government's stand was that J & K is an integral part of India and India's parliamentary democrecy, independent judiciary, free and vibrant press provide a transparent and effective system for promotion and protection of human rights, which obviates they need for any fact-finding Mission. India's stand in countering the case presented by the Pakistani Prime Minister on human rights in Kashmir was effective in isolating Pakistan at the UN Human Rights Commission. Eventually Pakistan withdrew the resolution voluntarily and unconditionally.

Visit of French Delegation to India

4614. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :
SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK :
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the French delegation comprising of senior French Senators which visited New Delhi in the second week of February, 1994 expressed concern over Pak-attitude towards Kashmir and condemned the cross-border terrorism perpetrated by

Pakistan and the violation of human rights at the hands of Pak-backed terrorists in the valley;

(b) if so whether the delegation offered French help to fight terrorism; and

(c) what were the precise observations and suggestions of the delegation and the understanding reached with it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Discussions with US Assistant Secretary of State

4615. SYED SIBTEY RAZI :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI GAYA SINGH :
SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that he and other Ministers had meetings with the visiting Ms. Robin Raphel, Assistant Secretary of State of USA, recently;

(b) if so, whether it conforms to the accepted norms of protocol; and

(c) what are the details of the discussion that took place and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) During her visit to Delhi, the US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia called on the Home Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia. Minister of State for Internal Security Shri Rajesh Pilot was present during the call on the Home Minister.

(b) In arranging these calls, Government took into account diplomatic practice and protocol observed by other countries in respect of visiting US officials of the rank of Assistant Secretary.

(c) Discussions covered issues of mutual concern, including Pakistan's support to terrorism in Punjab and J. K. The Home Minister highlighted the fact that certain statements emanating from Washington had impacted adversely on the ground situation in J. & K. He stressed that J & K was an integral part of India and the people of India would not tolerate attempts to undermine the nation's territorial integrity.

The US Assistant Secretary reiterated that the US would continue to urge Pakistan to cease support to terrorists operating in India. She said outstandig issues in Indo-Pak relations should be resolved bilaterally within the framework of the Simla Agreement.

Government reiterated India's deep concern at the US proposal to transfer F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. Discussions also focussed on the need to revitalized existing cooperation and the potential for further growth in economic and commercial relations.

Invitation for Prime Minister's Visit to U. S. A.

4616. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Prime Minister of India has so far received any formal invitation from the President of the United States to visit Washington later this summer; and

(b) if so, whether any agenda therefor has been decided so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agenda is expected to cover a range of bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest, including potential for cooperation in international affairs and UN peacekeeping opeartions.